



**2.7M**  
displaced people  
living in northwest Syria

**1,214**  
active IDP sites  
in northwest Syria

**1.5M**  
displaced people  
living in IDP sites

**80%**  
of people in IDP sites are  
women and children

Source: CCCM Cluster, November 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 19,447 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in northwest Syria, while COVID-19 associated deaths tripled since last month.
- Two new COVID-19 testing laboratories, one additional hospital, four new COVID-19 community-based treatment centres (CCTC) and a quarantine centre were operationalised in northwest Syria during the reporting period.
- A funding shortfall leading to significant gaps in water and sanitation services has resulted in people in need of these services increasing by over 1.8 million people in the last 3 months, including for water provision through networks and water stations, hygiene kits, solid waste disposal, sanitation services and water trucking services.
- Nearly 250,000 people were reached by Shelter/NFI partners with winterisation assistance in November. Such support remains vital as winter progresses, including in the form of multi-purpose cash.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**Ongoing hostilities:** Hostilities continue to impact communities across northwest Syria, especially in areas near the M4 and M5 highways in Idlib governorate. With some 400,000 people living along the M4 and M5 highways, any escalation would have devastating humanitarian consequences. The security situation is further undermined by the prevalence of explosive hazards and in-fighting between non-state armed groups (NSAGs), which take a toll on civilian life. Targeted attacks against non-combatants have also been reported, including of a journalist reportedly shot dead in Al Bab in northern Aleppo governorate on 12 December. The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) reports at least six incidents of improvised explosive devices (IED) in northwest Syria since the last situation report on 18 November. These incidents resulted in the deaths of at least eight civilians, including two girls, and the injury of 55 civilians, including seven women and 16 children. Many of these casualties were from just two IED explosions in northern Aleppo governorate, in Al Bab and in Afrin on 24

November, in which tens of civilians were harmed. In another IED incident, in Jandairis in northern Aleppo on 4 December, a humanitarian worker was also injured – the seventh humanitarian to be injured in northwest Syria in the last three months, a period that also saw the deaths of six other aid workers.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 cases continue to rise steadily in northwest Syria, with 19,447 confirmed cases as of 20 December – 10,748 cases in the Idleb area and 8,699 in northern Aleppo governorate. The percentage of current cases among medical healthcare workers decreased to nearly 9 percent, encompassing nurses, doctors and midwives, while a further 4 percent are auxiliary workers in the health sector. Since the last report, case numbers in the northwest increased by over 47 percent. This rise is also linked to higher testing capacities since last month, enabled by two new laboratories, in Jandairis in northern Aleppo and Dana in Idleb governorate. 68,436 tests have been conducted to date. Of the new tests conducted in camp settings, 28 percent have returned positive results. Across northwest Syria, 286 COVID-19 associated deaths have been recorded and 10,477 people have reportedly recovered. Since the last situation report, one more hospital was operationalised for the treatment of COVID-19, bringing the total number of operationalised hospitals in northwest Syria to nine (with 212 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 670 regular beds), in addition to 1,348 beds in the 30 active COVID-19 community-based treatment centres (CCTCs) – four of which were added in the last month. The first NGO-run quarantine centre opened in Shekh Bahr in the Maaret Tamsrin sub-district of Idleb governorate on 1 December. This quarantine centre aims to isolate those who have been exposed to confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, contrasting with CCTCs where treatment of COVID-19 patients with mild-to-moderate symptoms occur. The quarantine centre will enable physical isolation for people who otherwise live in crowded conditions. This is especially vital due to the difficulties faced by those trying to isolate while living in IDP camps, as some 10.3% of known COVID-19 cases at time of reporting were in camps.

**Population movements:** Some 2.7 million people remain displaced in northwest Syria. According to the CCCM Cluster, there were 29,785 displacements in November, with departures principally occurring from Ariha, Ehsem and Idleb. The main locations where displaced people arrived to include Dana, A'zaz and Salqin sub-districts. Some people may have been exposed to multiple displacements, and reasons for moving vary. Alongside this, a UN partner reports that as of 30 November, some 242,400 people were recorded to have returned to their homes or to previous places of displacement this year, including some 4,800 IDP returnees in November. These recent returns have mostly been to areas around the M4 highway and west of the M5 highway – areas which remain in proximity to the frontlines.

**Winterisation:** Humanitarian needs are exacerbated in winter, with communities at risk of harsh weather conditions and potential flooding. There is dire need for winterisation support, including for fuel and heating, winter clothes, blankets, food, livelihoods, and winter water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs. Without adequate winterisation, people in need may resort to measures such as reliance on burning unsafe materials for heat, which risks outbreaks of fires or harming people through the emission of toxic fumes. Humanitarian partners are also working to rehabilitate roads and drainage systems in and around camps to mitigate against flood risks and to ensure that these areas remain accessible. Similarly, rehabilitation of the road between Ghazawiyet and Afrin was completed at the end of November – a vital stretch of road for ensuring that UN humanitarian transshipments from Turkey can continue to reach people in need in northern Aleppo via Bab Al-Hawa. Flooding is already disrupting lives in the northwest, with the CCCM Cluster recording flood incidents affecting at least 17 IDP sites in December, impacting at least 29 households, destroying at least five tents and damaging at least 63 others.

**Fuel prices:** Fuel prices returned to similar levels as at the end of September 2020, following three price increases and two price decreases since the last situation report on 18 November, in line with fluctuations of the Turkish Lira (TRY) against the US Dollar. Prices still remain notably higher than when they first began to be set in TRY six months ago. Compared to 14 June and as of 20 December, per litre prices were around 28 percent higher for “imported first type benzine”, 31 percent for “imported first type diesel”, 13 percent for locally refined diesel and 40 percent for a gas cylinder. The addition of two new fuel companies in northwest Syria during the reporting period has done little to impact the rising fuel prices in the region, with the high prices of fuel continuing to impact the local economy and costs of everyday goods and services.

## FUNDING

The Syria cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) has completed its second standard allocation, with a total allocation of US\$19.9 million for two thematic priorities: (i) to support immediate and critical measures to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and (ii) to contribute to urgent lifesaving winterisation interventions in high-needs and underserved areas. This includes a nearly US\$6 million top up of the initial allocation envelope thanks to new donor contributions, notably to support winterisation efforts.

The SCHF Advisory Board met at the beginning of December for its annual meeting to review the Fund's activities and discuss the strategic parameters for 2021, and a second meeting with the Advisory Board was organised to present the findings of the third-party monitoring activities. Both exercises will feed into the allocation planning for 2021, including

continuation of ongoing efforts to strengthen the quality and accountability of the response. The call for proposals under the new capacity assessment exercise for new partners to join the Fund has been completed, with 61 organisations expressing interest. The review process is ongoing to select around ten new partners.

Further funding is needed to meet the increasingly diverse and complex needs in northwest Syria. A record US\$155 million has been generously contributed by 15 donors since the start of 2020, enabling the SCHF to support 2.9 million people with life-saving and basic assistance across ten clusters and for critical COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response in northwest Syria. However, as of 17 December, the 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains underfunded, with only 55.1 percent of the total requirement funded as the year nears its end. It is vital that resource mobilisation efforts continue in the new year.

Further information on SCHF activities and contributing donors can be found here: <https://pfbi.unocha.org>

## KEY PRIORITIES & RESPONSE ACTIVITIES



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM):** Cluster members continue to report **fire incidents as a prevalent concern in IDP sites** in the northwest, where already vulnerable displaced populations face regular risks to themselves, their shelters and belongings as a result of these incidents. The CCCM and Shelter/NFI clusters collaborated to develop a **Fire Prevention and Response Guidance Note** for the northwest Syria context, available in both English and Arabic. The guidance aims to adopt an integrated approach and provide an overview of recommendations from the CCCM and Shelter/NFI clusters to prevent and respond to fire incidents in IDP sites.

**22,000**

*people with specific needs living in IDP sites*

Due to the context of largely self-settled sites and the subsequent lack of camp management systems, **monitoring and collecting information** as part of its coordination response are essential aspects of the CCCM Cluster's priorities. The Cluster closely monitors **1,214 active IDP sites hosting 1.5 million displaced people**. Of these, 80 percent are women and children and some 22,000 people are reported to be persons with specific needs. **Coordinating and disseminating operational information** on IDP sites as well as tracking IDP movements are key priorities for the CCCM Cluster to analyse trends and quickly identify displaced people in need of assistance. The Cluster tracked **29,785 recent displacements in November**, with departures principally occurring from Ariha, Ehsem and Idlib. The main locations where displaced people arrived to include Dana, A'zaz and Salqin sub-districts. Some people may have been exposed to multiple displacements, and reasons for moving vary. The main shelter types for new arrivals in November were reported as being solid/finished houses (65 percent), camps (23 percent), unfinished/damaged houses (10 percent) and collective centres (2 percent).



**Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL):** To reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing economic crisis on the affected population and on markets, ERL Cluster partners are prioritising **increasing access to livelihoods opportunities with a focus on cash-for-work (CFW) schemes / multi-purpose cash**. This includes CFW linked to rehabilitation works for improving access to services, CFW linked to local manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as fabric masks, support to urban/rural new businesses and existing entrepreneurial activities, restoration and rehabilitation of access ways/roads critical for the transportation of humanitarian supplies across northwest Syria, and roads and drainage emergency repair works around camps. From January to November, 10,779 people were employed through the creation of short-term work opportunities in olive harvesting; light rehabilitation works of social infrastructure, basic infrastructure and roads; and CFW activities. These activities were mainly in the A'zaz, Suran, Mare and Al Bab sub-districts of Aleppo governorate and the Dana, Armanaz and Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts of Idlib governorate. Some 573,000 masks were produced and distributed through CFW schemes. Entrepreneurial activities supported 1,375 entrepreneurs, mostly supporting women and youth to start a business or service Atareb, Suran and Jarablus sub-districts in northern Aleppo and Ariha, Armanaz and Idlib sub-districts in Idlib. Four ERL Cluster partners **completed the restoration of approximately 30 kilometres of roads and drainage systems in camps and in proximity of camps** in Idlib, Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin and Atareb sub-districts. **Reparation of 20 kilometres of road between Ghazawiyet and Afrin** by ERL Cluster partners was completed in the last week of November. **Reparation work on 12 kilometres of roads in Qabasin** by one partner is still ongoing.

**10,799**

*people employed through cash-for-work activities*

**Education:** Provision of continued learning in a safe environment remains the key priority. **More schools are now opening either fully or partially** in northwest Syria, despite increased COVID-19 cases and an unpredictable security situation. Education Cluster partners are **prioritising COVID-19 mitigation measures** such as providing additional learning spaces, sterilisation and awareness raising as well as rehabilitation activities including repairing windows and installing ventilation in classrooms. Between 12 November and 14 December, 41,493 children benefited from school sterilisation and temporary learning centres. In most schools, distance learning is still taking place alongside in-person learning, due to lack of space to accommodate all children. **Winterisation of learning spaces** is a further priority, including provision of fuel for heating and insulation of windows. For schools that remain closed and/or partially open, **distance and blended learning support** is a top priority, including provision of support to education personnel and teacher incentives, internet provision and training for continuation of learning. To **mitigate against gender-based violence (GBV) risks in schools** and to ensure appropriate referrals take place at school level, a workshop was organised for Education Cluster partners through the Education and GBV taskforce.

# 41,483

*children benefiting from sterilised schools and temporary learning centres*

**Food Security and Livelihoods:** Delivery of food assistance and replenishment of food stocks continued during the reporting period. **Livelihoods programmes** were prioritised to scale up support to local communities on agricultural production (wheat planting season began in November) along with technical assistance on small-scale food production and assets, while boosting food processing as part of the target population's income generating activities. The **production of animal-source foods** for humans continues to be prioritised to reduce human malnutrition, protect human health and reduce COVID-19 susceptibility, with improved access to animal feed for livestock owners and protection against endemic and epidemic diseases. On 15 November, FSL Cluster partners embarked on a **large-scale mass treatment of sheep against mange combined with annual enterotoxaemia vaccinations**, targeting two economically important infectious diseases of sheep. This is expected to cover 500,000 sheep in 657 communities, support optimum levels of sheep milk production during the forthcoming lactation season and secure supply of sheep milk products for human consumption. With the onset of winter, the **bovine ephemeral fever (BEF) outbreak has subsided**, although a threat of a second, larger outbreak exists in early 2021, as biting insects become active in large numbers again.

# 39,209

*people received food assistance as emergency response*

From 15 November to 15 December, FSL Cluster partners provided **food assistance** to 39,209 newly displaced people and returnees in northwest Syria, including 14,342 emergency food baskets, 8,069 ready-to-eat (RTE) rations, 1,360 cooked meals and US\$ 460,400 in multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG). Additionally, 1.5 million people received bread bundles from FSL Cluster partners in September. In December, January and February, 1.6 million, 1.4 million and 1.3 million people are targeted for bread distribution respectively. The Cluster lead agency delivers general food assistance (in-kind) to some 1.35 million people and maintains at least 1.5 month's supply of food baskets prepositioned in the northwest. The Cluster lead agency has 191,029 RTEs available with its partners and in its warehouses in northwest Syria, enough to provide food assistance to 955,145 people. On **winterisation** support, the Cluster lead agency and its partner aim to provide double RTE rations in December, to some 10,697 households assessed as being most vulnerable.

**Health:** The **COVID-19 response** continues to be a Health Cluster priority, with 19,447 positive cases identified as of 20 December. To support the ongoing response, 60,000 swabs and universal transport media for testing SARS-CoV-2 were procured. **Nine hospitals are active** with 212 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 670 regular beds, in addition to 1,300 beds in the **29 active community-based treatment centres (CCTCs)**. The COVID-19 taskforce disseminates daily situation updates and the [Health Cluster COVID-19 monitoring dashboard](#) is regularly updated with the latest information.

# 19,447

*positive COVID-19 cases*

Beyond COVID-19, Health Cluster partners are managing other communicable diseases such as **tuberculosis (TB), of which multiple drug resistant (MDR) cases have been diagnosed** in the northwest. Two thousand GeneXpert cartridges were delivered, as well as medical consumables and supplies for the proper diagnosis and care of TB cases. **Leishmaniasis also continues to be of epidemic proportion** in the northwest. The Health Cluster lead agency distributed 3,000 units of rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) for diagnosing **Visceral Leishmaniasis**, as well as 84,500 ampules of Glucantime and 250 ampules of Ambisome for the treatment and care of this disfiguring tropical disease. The Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN) carried out screening services in the community, based on 13 selected syndromes/morbidities, in 238 sentinel sites in Aleppo and Idlib. 32,694 cases of **Cutaneous Leishmaniasis** have been reported in northwest Syria, fewer than the number of cases reported in 2018 (35,583 cases) and 2019 (40,411 cases). An increase was reported previously as a result of hostility and internal displacements, while the current status and the measures applied for COVID-19 in sentinel sites may explain some of the current decrease in cases.



**Nutrition:** The **nutrition situation in the northwest is worsening**, according to data from monthly nutrition surveillance and admission into programmes for treatment of acute malnutrition. Cases of **severe acute malnutrition** have increased by over 70 percent since March 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Similarly, the proxy prevalence of **chronic malnutrition** (stunting) in November 2020 was significantly higher compared to 2019, affecting one-third of children aged 6-59 months. Since the start of 2020, some 1.97 million children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) have been reached by 31 partners with lifesaving nutrition services in 588 communities and 42 sub-districts of northwest Syria. This represents nearly 86 percent of the population in need, an **11 percent increase in coverage** compared to the last situation report.

**1.97M***Women and children reached in 2020*

**Protection:** In addition to regular protection programming including child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) specialised interventions and community-based activities, Protection Cluster partners continued to implement activities under the **emergency response model** for new civilian displacement in Idlib and northern Aleppo, delivering 6,529 emergency protection interventions. COVID-19 continues to cause stigmatisation and breakdowns in community support mechanisms. The Protection Cluster is working with partners to **mobilise communities and increase community support in the COVID-19 context**, aiming to improve circumstances for, in particular, older people without support networks as well as people with disabilities and their caregivers. The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group (TWG) is rolling out an **eviction monitoring** tool, aiming to increase understanding of forced eviction trends. Over 200 primarily field-based staff of the WASH, Shelter/NFI, CCCM and Protection clusters attended **trainings on HLP due diligence** organised by the HLP TWG, aiming to improve HLP-sensitivity of interventions and achieve higher levels of tenure security. A series of online workshops with some 100 participants from various sectors were held to **identify solutions for the impact of a lack of civil documentation on access to humanitarian assistance**.

**>200***field-based staff across sectors trained on HLP due diligence and tenure security*

Following finalisation of the multi-sector needs assessment, the Protection Cluster and sub-clusters convened an analysis and validation workshop – **key concerns relate to adoption of harmful coping strategies (including increases in GBV and Child Rights violations compared to earlier years), barriers to freedom of movement as well as access to services and assistance, HLP violations, and explosive hazard contamination**. The findings are supported by reports from the Protection and Child Protection Monitoring task forces. The GBV sub-cluster presented results from the Syria-wide protection and GBV series of focus group discussions, highlighting concerns related to domestic violence and child/early marriage, among other issues. GBV sub-cluster partners supported the **16 Days of Activism campaign**, organising activities across northwest Syria. Child Protection sub-cluster partners continue to provide **services and support to children** and their caregivers in restricted operating environments and with challenges related to COVID-19, including an observed **increase in child labour cases**, which may be a result of school closures. The Inclusion Technical Working Group (TWG) collaborated with a UN partner to publish a report on disability prevalence and impact in Syria, with the report highlighting a comparatively high disability rate (40 percent) among the general population in the northwest. Based on findings from 81 key informant interviews, the Inclusion TWG also published a **report on the lived experiences of people with disabilities**, with detailed and practical recommendations to donors and clusters to strengthen inclusion across the humanitarian response.



**Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI):** In October, **over 66,000 people received NFI assistance** in the form of NFI kits, kitchen sets, mattresses, jerry cans, carpets, solar lamps, tarpaulin and blankets, while shelter needs of over 103,000 people were addressed in the same month. Of this support, 88 percent was related to provision of emergency shelter and 12 percent to shelter rehabilitation and transitional shelters. Additionally, SNFI Cluster partners **reached 249,362 people with its winterisation response in November 2020**. The SNFI Cluster developed and published a **Guidance Note on Shelter and NFI Kits for northwest Syria**, which provides detailed technical guidance for cluster partners on shelter and NFI lifesaving activities. The guidance comprehensively outlines the various items and their appropriate usage, as well as technical specifications, advice on quality control measures and prices. It also includes details on the emergency shelter kit, comprehensive shelter kit, minimum basic repairs and shelter winterisation activities. This is in addition to information on the new arrival NFI kits and additions to NFI kits such as kitchen sets and winter top-up items, e.g., stoves, fuel and winter clothing.

**249,362***people reached with winterisation assistance in November*

Thirty SNFI Cluster members engaged in a series of dedicated **online workshops on shelter modalities** in December, to learn more about different shelter types and implementation modalities relevant and applicable to the context. The workshops enable SNFI Cluster partners to better design the shelter approach and improve the methods and quality of

implementation programmes. Key topics addressed include shelter types and modalities, shelter rehabilitation, collective centres, cash for shelter, cash for rent, global rental guidance, cash and market-based approaches and site improvements.

Together with a UN partner, the SNFI Cluster conducted a **household assessment on shelter conditions**, especially in areas of displacement. The assessment explored shelter types, settlement types, shelter damages, problems or issues reported in shelters, hazards, evictions, occupancy status and property status in the place of origin. The findings indicate that in northwest Syria, **40 percent of IDP households live in finished houses or apartments, 28 percent in tents and 12 percent in unfinished houses or apartments**. 12 percent of IDP shelters nationwide are currently damaged (excluding tents or makeshift shelters) and 31 percent have been unable to repair their current shelter because they can't afford it. Of displaced people living in damaged shelters, nearly 47 percent report minor roof damage and four percent moderate roof damage, nearly 61 percent report minor wall damage and 12 percent moderate wall damage, while nearly 39 percent report minor window and door damage and 22 percent moderate window and door damage. In IDP camps, 61 percent reported wind-induced damage to shelters, while 19 percent of in-camp IDPs reported flood damage. **Lack of space inside IDP shelters is the most frequently reported problem** – 25 percent nationwide and 44 percent in the northwest. Finally, 84 percent of IDP households own property in their place of origin, although 62 percent of those households report that property as damaged or destroyed – only 18 percent report it intact.

 **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** During the reporting period, **over 1.5 million people were reached with water trucking**, a decrease of 600,000 people over the last month. **839,000 people were reached with desludging services** and **2.4 million people with solid waste management**. 70 percent of displaced people in camps in northwest Syria continue to rely on WASH partners to provide daily water trucking, which is costly and short-term. The WASH Cluster continues to **advocate for funding to support connecting camps to existing piped water systems**, which would dramatically improve the quantity and quality of lifesaving water services while substantially reducing costs. Access to safe water through piped systems remains a challenge, and a **further five water stations have ceased to operate since last month**, leaving only 250 out of 449 in Idlib and Aleppo currently functioning (55 percent), with 209 (84 percent) of these stations being chlorinated. Without electricity, partners continue to operate these water stations through diesel generators, with the **cost of fuel accounting for an estimated 30 percent of the total WASH Cluster expenditure**. Further support is needed for the repair and rehabilitation of water stations and networks, and to connect these stations to electricity grids.

**1.5M**  
people reached  
with water trucking

As part of the **COVID-19 response**, during the reporting period 1.6 million people received hygiene promotion messaging (an increase of 200,000 people) and advice on COVID-19 mitigation, while over 300,000 people benefitted from hygiene kits. At the sub-district level, Ar-Ra'ee and Mhambal continue to be the most significant **hotspots for waterborne diseases**, while Dana and Al Bab have the highest number of Leishmaniasis cases. **Leishmaniasis prevention measures have been implemented** over the past 3-4 months, but with the hosting period of the disease usually between 6-8 months, cases are only expected to decrease around May to August 2021. **WASH Cluster partners supported 107 Health facilities** (with a catchment of up to 419,000 persons) and 235 schools (66,639 students) with water supply, sanitation, solid waste services and hygiene promotion activities.

 **Logistics:** The Logistics Cluster is working with its partners to **identify supply chain related solutions in the event of a future roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine** for northwest Syria. Logistics capacity assessments on cold chain transportation and warehousing capacity in Turkey and northwest Syria are being undertaken for preparedness purposes. The Logistics Cluster continues to **collect, monitor and analyse physical access information** with inputs from partners operating on the ground to mitigate the impact that winter weather will have on road degradation and access. Coordination and Information Management services, as well as technical GIS support will be key in facilitating information flow and inform decision-making. **In November, 420 trucks** of UN assistance, carrying 8,432 metric tonnes of FSL, Shelter, WASH and Health sector items, were transhipped via Bab Al-Hawa, while **341 trucks** carrying 5,408 metric tonnes of items from the same four sectors were transhipped **between 1 and 15 December**.

**761**  
trucks of UN assistance  
transhipped from  
1 November to 15 December

## OPERATIONAL GAPS & CHALLENGES



**Camp Coordination and Camp Management:** Although IDP sites are usually a last resort option, there are currently 1,214 IDP sites listed in the CCCM database, the majority of which are self-settled (1,113 sites). The CCCM Cluster continues to monitor these sites to identify gaps and facilitate the coordination of multi-sectoral services. **Incidents continue to impact IDP sites, exacerbating existing challenges and vulnerabilities**, such as lack of proper infrastructure, site planning or camp management systems especially in self-settled IDP sites. From 10 November to 8 December, the CCCM Cluster reported **seven fire incidents** that affected 11 households, destroyed 11 tents and caused one death, as well as **one storm incident** that impacted one household and destroyed one tent. **Flood incidents affecting 17 IDP sites** were reported between 10 November and 20 December, impacting 29 households, destroying five tents and damaging 63 others. Urgent needs ranged from tents and NFI kits to food parcels and fire extinguishers. The Cluster continues to focus on monitoring, reporting and coordinating the response to the incidents, as well as advocating and planning to resolve the underlying challenges related to these incidents.

The CCCM Cluster worked with the Education Cluster to provide information on **access to education services in IDP sites** using the IDP Site Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM) plus tool. As of September, some 318,000 school-aged children were identified in 1,017 IDP sites monitored by the CCCM Cluster. In the context of COVID-19, only 4 percent of these IDP sites were fully using remote learning, compared to 44 percent that were partially using remote learning and 52 percent that were not using it. **Main limitations for children learning from home in camps included caregivers being overburdened with other demands**, inhibiting their ability to help their children learn at home, as well as **caregivers lacking confidence to help their children learn and insufficient literacy/numeracy of caregivers**. Furthermore, primary schools were unavailable in 70 percent of sites, while secondary schools were unavailable in 86 percent of sites.



**Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL): Livelihoods and basic services were reported to be the highest priority needs** for every population group, according to a November report by a UN partner. The **risk of further reduction of purchasing power** points to the urgent need for scaling up access to livelihood opportunities for people in need, particularly through creation of emergency short-term employment, cash assistance and support to businesses. Additionally, of approximately 70 kilometres of **road requiring urgent restoration** between Bab Al-Hawa and northern Aleppo governorate, a gap of some 50 kilometres remains to be covered. Some 50-70 kilometres of road also still needs to be rehabilitated to facilitate access to markets and to/from camps, to enhance access to livelihood opportunities, mobility and flood prevention. Some US\$1.2 million is estimated to be needed to cover some 30 kilometres of needed roads and drainage emergency repair works.



**Education: Lack of funds** continues to inhibit provision of adequate education support. Due to the increased cases of COVID-19 and schools not being able to operate fully, **demand for distance and blended learning is higher** than ever. As more schools open, **needs increase for sterilisation items and for personal protective equipment (PPE)**. Further priority gaps include in **establishment and expansion of new learning centres and WASH facilities**, as well as **winterisation of learning spaces** through providing fuel for heaters. The biggest funding gap is in support to **teacher incentives**, which enable teachers to continue teaching especially through distance learning modalities. Strengthening teachers' capacities and providing internet access both to teachers and students are also gaps that need to be addressed.



**Food Security and Livelihoods:** Based on the monthly FSL Cluster gap analysis, **less than 25 percent of people in need of food assistance were reached in 13 out of 36 sub-districts** in the northwest in September. On livelihoods, farmers are constrained by **lack of agricultural inputs, increased prices, and limited access to high quality seeds** – especially Syrian wheat varieties that usually provide good production yield. The critical economic situation, the negative impact of COVID-19 especially for households with limited income, seasonal winter challenges and instability are the main drivers **compounding food insecurity** of people in northwest Syria.



**Health:** The **overall security situation** remains the overarching constraint for the Health partners, especially for early warning, alert and response staff. This **restricts access**, hindering the expansion of services and limiting movement of staff for outbreak investigations, sample collection and transportation to labs, inhibiting timely response and the ability to carry out regular on-the-job trainings and on-site supervision. The **COVID-19 outbreak** has forced the partners to repurpose regular programming funding to support the pandemic mitigation response. These **funding gaps are increasing** as the end of the year approaches. COVID-19 measures have also created further **timebound logistical challenges**, as restrictions in cross-border operations create delays in the delivery of goods, especially those linked to the COVID-19

response. Furthermore, while surveys show improvement in the wearing of facemasks and face coverings by the northwest Syria population, **reluctance to isolate** when exposed to positive/suspected COVID-19 cases continues to be a challenge.



**Nutrition: Proportions of PLW reached with services for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (52 percent) remain low** compared to other Nutrition Cluster interventions. The **increasing COVID-19 cases among children aged 6-59 months and women of reproductive age** necessitates increased coordination with partners managing COVID-19 community-based treatment centres (CCTCs) for the provision of nutrition support. Similarly, the **increasing number of COVID-19 cases among Nutrition partners' staff** requires continued engagements with NGOs on minimum standards regarding duty of care in the context of COVID-19 and how to ensure operational adjustments.



**Protection: Occasional temporary suspension of several protection programmes in already underserved areas** have been reported due to shelling and small-scale hostilities. Grants funding the Protection Cluster network of emergency focal points ended at the end of October, reducing protection outreach emergency response capacity in case of new displacement. Coping capacities of affected populations continue to deteriorate, with increases in debt and adoption of harmful coping strategies identified through assessments and engagement with communities. Instances of **forced evictions** continue to be reported, including of displaced people unable to afford increasing rents and left to IDP sites or to cheaper rentals. Increases in rental prices are also raising risks of forced evictions from IDP sites, reinforcing the need for a multi-sectoral and well-coordinated response, including provision of support as well as advocacy with duty bearers.

**Social stigma related to COVID-19** continues to pose a significant risk to public health due to adverse effects of reluctance to seek healthcare and **dissolving of community support systems**; structured multi-sectoral engagement continues to be required to address this, especially in seeking community feedback and increasing awareness. **GBV and Child Protection partners struggle to continue operating in northwest Syria due to limited funding and access limitations** in an increasingly restrictive operational environment, especially in relation to IDP sites. This is especially of concern given the COVID-19 related increases in issues such as domestic violence and child labour. **Lack of civil documentation** remains a major protection issue due to resulting barriers to accessing assistance and restrictions on freedom of movement. Moreover, **female-headed households are more likely to lack civil documentation**, increasing risks that are compounded by gendered restrictions on movement, inheritance rights, etc.



**Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI):** The SNFI Cluster aims to contribute to the most urgent life-saving **winterisation** interventions, through the provision of timely winterisation supplies as well as **cash-based programming** where possible. While the SNFI Cluster reached 249,362 people with winterisation assistance in November, **funding gaps** mean that many people in need are not covered under the winterisation response. Given the **timebound nature of winterisation**, the SNFI Cluster advocates using additionally secured funding in the form of **multi-purpose cash to maintain effectiveness** during and beyond this winter. **Gaps in infrastructure** continue to be a real concern, **made worse by flood incidents**. The SNFI Cluster continues to advocate for improved infrastructure and coordinates with other clusters to prioritise flood-prone sites.



**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** The WASH Cluster is facing a **funding crisis leading to unprecedented gaps** in the continuity of services. In the last three months, people in need of one or more WASH services rose from 770,000 people to over 2.6 million people. This includes current gaps and gaps forecast to occur over the next two months. Of the 2.6 million people, 54 percent require provision of water through networks and water stations; 52 percent need hygiene kits; 36 percent need solid waste disposal; 21 percent require sanitation services; and 16 percent require water trucking services. 29 sub-districts are affected; 14 in Aleppo and 15 in Idlib. These are across 531 locations – 126 communities and 405 camps/informal settlements – with the majority in Dana sub-district (27 percent) followed by Maaret Tamsrin at 22 percent, Idlib at 12 percent, and Salqin and Atareb at 7 percent. Actual gaps are expected to be higher than what has been reported. Major WASH partners face similar funding challenges. As of 1 January, a further 1.1 million people (560,000 in camps and 613,000 in communities) in 555 locations will no longer be in receipt of critical WASH services, while a further 770,000 people will lack access to piped water in March due to the expiration of existing funding.

In November, assessments across 151 IDP sites in Dana, Harim, Armanaz, Badama, Darkosh, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena, Jisr-Ash-Shugur and Salqin sub-districts found that **23 percent of assessed sites reported no water chlorination**; **on average 58 people share one latrine and latrines are not disaggregated by sex in 16 percent of sites**; **67 percent did not receive hygiene kits in the past 3 months**; **42 percent have no access to WASH feedback and complaints mechanisms**; **12 percent are not aware of which NGO provides WASH services**; **19 percent have no NGO focal point**; and **17 percent of those assessed reported “not being consulted during the design and delivery**

of WASH services". The WASH cluster aims to improve the quality of its response and its accountability to the affected population, an endeavour that is complicated by the high turnover of NGOs working in camps due to short-term funding.

The WASH Cluster has identified **priority winterisation gaps** for storm water and culvert construction as well as sewage line rehabilitation and unblocking in Maaret Tamsrin sub-district, in addition to increased desludging of septic tanks in 803 IDP sites and solar heating systems for 17,550 displaced families using communal showers. The **combined cost of these priority winterisation activities is US\$ 5.7 million.**

 **Logistics:** A major challenge remains the **provision of comprehensive training** to partners on the ground on newly developed data collection tools due to the short timeframe available. **Lack of visibility on future transshipment pipelines** in the first quarter of 2021 is a further challenge inhibiting planning.

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